

# THE LABOUR ORGANISER

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## Topics of the Month

THE "Victory for Socialism"

Campaign holds the tort as the topic of the month.

Roughly one-third of the Parties are

already on the job, and the series of Conferences now being held ought at least to reverse the proportion by the close of the half-year. We are concerned about those Parties who visualise the campaign purely as a literature distribution, and in another part of this issue we indicate how the campaign ought to be run by showing what is being done at Newport, Mon. The publicity side of the campaign really must not be lost sight of. It is an essential part of the scheme, and also is the push for new members. Those Parties in particular which have entered the scheme with some hesitation owing to financial exigencies ought to appreciate that by properly planned publicity and well-directed efforts to secure new members, the campaign can be made not only to pay for itself, but to return its cost over and over again. We are afraid that in many quarters publicity plans have hardly yet been thought of.

Speaking of Conferences reminds one of several matters. In the first place, as an outcome of organising work in connection with certain conferences we have discovered how woefully incomplete and inaccurate are the records of the names and addresses of Local Secretaries kept by the Head Office of the Labour Party. This is not the fault of the Head Office at all, for frequent appeals go out to be supplied with information of changes. It is apparent that this information is not sent in a number of cases, and that many of those responsible do not take the trouble to inform Head Office when a change of Secretary takes place. To our own knowledge this has meant

a considerable waste of stationery and misdirection of circulars, while possibly many organisations have, as a result, received no notices of the "Victory for Socialism" Conferences. This is a matter which ought to be remedied. It is the duty of Divisional Secretaries to forward information of changes immediately to Head Office, and it is to the advantage of newly-appointed Secretaries that they themselves also notify Head Office of their appointment, giving, of course, the name of the late Secretary and the full name of their organisation. We ourselves sometimes receive notifications of changes which are difficult to trace because of the lack of full information.

Criticisms of mass Conferences have taken the form that the platform monopolise the time of the meeting. Where this is true the criticism is well grounded, but we believe that in the present campaign this fault is not likely to occur. Much more often those responsible for the organisation of Conferences do not make adequate provision for the stewarding of the hall, or the comfort of the delegates. And this is not written with special application to the present series of conferences, but relates to all types of conferences organised in the Movement. Halls that are difficult to find should be well described on the circulars, and in some cases it is well to give bus services or directions. There is often a great deal lacking in the issue of credentials. We prefer credentials which provide a space for delegates to make notes upon. The seating of delegates requires watching so that late comers will not have to disturb the gathering by taking front seats. Agendas are sometimes forgotten till the last minute, and also the selection and notification of those who will occupy the platform. For big gatherings music is indispensable during the assembly of delegates, and

in many places arrangements for tea, or information where the same is to be obtained, is welcome. Altogether, it is the details which often count and where delegates have been summoned from a distance it pays to provide for their comfort and convenience.

A year or two ago a push was made by the Labour Party to secure the appointment of Literature Secretaries by every Local Party. Despite this, we believe that a majority of Local Labour Parties still carry on without the services of this indispensable officer, while in many places where a Literature Secretary has been appointed we have observed that either the stock is lamentably low or altogether out of date. It cannot be too well known that Labour Party publications have progressively improved in get-up and attractiveness during the past few years, and the latest pamphlets leave little to be desired in these respects. It pays to get the latest pamphlets red-hot from the press, and not to persist in pushing soiled and out-of-date stuff which has passed its usefulness. Most pamphlets after all serve a temporary purpose only; only the minority are steady sellers throughout the years. The temptation to hang on to stale stuff arises from a fear of the little loss entailed by giving them away. Yet after all, this loss is soon recouped out of the profit from newer literature. If we had our way we should clear out entirely the stocks of many literature secretaries, and if these officers would have the courage to do this themselves and order the latest and best they would be able to give far better accounts of their services and sales.

In a recent Local Party report we noted a comment that the figures for the membership cards issued did not include the membership of the Leagues of Youth, and we wondered why. We are afraid it is true that in some places League of Youth Branches and also Women Sections, have "members" who do not hold the Labour Party national card. It surely ought to be sufficiently understood by now that a person who does not hold a card is not a member of the Labour Party and has no right to function in either a Women's Section or League of Youth—unless, of course,

under fourteen years of age. What is the value of our Leagues of Youth unless they consist of Labour Party members, and what is the purpose of being associated with a Women's Section unless a member of the Party? In some cases the fault lies with bad distribution of membership cards throughout the Division. But that does not explain every instance that has come to our notice.

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# WELL DONE—NEWPORT!

We referred last month to the excellent membership and income from members' contributions shown last year by the Newport (Mon.) Labour Party. We have been privileged since then to see something of the vigour being displayed by this Party in the "Victory for Socialism" Campaign, which is coupled with a further big push for members; for this Party is not satisfied with a membership of nearly 3,000 and an income of nearly £400 from this source.

The "Victory for Socialism" Campaign was launched well to time, and forsaking the comparative stealth with which some Parties contemplate the campaign the Newport Party engaged great premises on the most prominent site in the town, in co-operation with the Newport Industrial Council, who also are running a campaign of protest against the Government's Unemployment Bill. Incidentally, the latter organisation has a huge membership among the unemployed who pay a penny per week to the Unemployed Council.

The activity displayed at these central premises is simply remarkable. Placarded with slogans and pointers, and packed with workers, there is a publicity value about this enterprise which cannot be over-estimated. On our visit we found that the unemployed had secured no less than 12,000 signatures to their petition in four days, while the "Victory for Socialism" Campaign was also going with a swing, and new members were also being rapidly enrolled.

The distribution of the "Victory for Socialism" first leaflet was well advanced on our visit, and it had been accompanied by the distribution of two or three special circulars. One of these was addressed to Party members, of which three thousand were issued, and the other was distributed to supporters. Each leaflet was well drafted and effective for its purpose. Labour song sheets were printed and demonstrations had been arranged. The Party had also issued a large number of cash envelopes for the collection of special donations for its self-denial effort, directed to defray the expenses of the campaign.

We desire to extend our heartiest

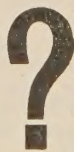
felicitations and congratulations to the Newport Labour Party on its magnificent enterprise, and in particular to mention the work of Mr. R. H. Ley, the voluntary secretary and able organiser of the Party. We should add that a special effort was also being made to increase the membership of the League of Youth Section, which already is a powerful force in the town.

## VICTORY FOR



## SOCIALISM!

HAS  
YOUR  
PARTY  
SENT OFF  
ITS ANSWER



An interesting experiment is being made in Birmingham, where a scheme has been adopted under which the sum of one penny per member per quarter will be paid by each ward to the funds of the Borough Party for the maintenance of central machinery.

In order to encourage efforts in this direction, a silver cup, presented by the Borough Secretary, Mr. T. Garnett, is to be competed for annually by the wards comprising the 12 Divisions. The competition will start as from 1st July, 1934, the year, for this purpose, to end as at 30th June.

The test of membership will be the figures upon which the aforesaid sum of one penny per quarter has been paid.

### MORE GOOD MEMBERSHIPS.

Striking success in the enrolment of individual members is the outstanding feature of the Annual Report of the Swansea Labour Association, whose accounts closed on 31st March, 1934. The membership at the close of 1933 was 690; at the end of March the figure was nearly 1,600. The Party hope to reach the three thousand mark before the year is out.

Thanks to the consistent effort put out over a number of years Swansea has now a Labour Council. The Swansea Labour Association is also a pioneer in the Movement to secure adequate local affiliation fees from Trades Unions. The affiliation fee in Swansea is one shilling per member per annum. Compare this with the wretched twopence per year which is the standard figure for so many constituencies! Swansea has a live Secretary and Agent in Mr. J. G. Davies, J.P.

The Annual Report of the Deptford Labour Party is another inspiring document presented in admirable form and containing a list of all Local Secretaries and Collectors, with other useful information. The report is a document that can be presented with pride to either friend or foe. The year ended with a membership of 3,050—the highest figure recorded in the history of the Party. A sum of no less than £387 12s. 6½d. was received in members' contributions.

We note that nine Women Sections in this Party hold weekly meetings; their roll-call is approximately six hundred, with an average attendance of three hundred weekly. The Deptford Party co-operate in the publication of a gratis monthly of which ten thousand copies are distributed. The gross income of the Party was well up in four figures. Parties in other areas who are unfamiliar with the big figures of D.L.P.'s who have made a success of their job will be interested to note that this Party's affiliation fee (i.e., Payments for cards to the Labour Party) totalled for the year £50 16s. 8d. The report contains a list of no less than seventy-five ward collectors. Our heartiest congratulations to this Party and to its able agent Mr. Frank Organ.

### MARRIED TO ALIENS: REGISTRATION.

Under date 26th April, the Home Office circularised registration Officers conveying the usual instructions for the compilation of the register of electors for 1934.

The Home Office again emphasise the importance of the door-to-door enquiry and the delivery of the appropriate return forms A. or D. to all householders and occupiers.

The circular deals in full with the position created by the passing of the British Nationality and Status of Aliens Act, 1933. This Act, while maintaining the general rule that the wife of a British subject is a British subject, and the wife of an alien is an alien, amends the Act of the same name passed in 1914 so as to create certain new exceptions to that rule.

By the new Act certain women, married to aliens, will retain British nationality, and will, therefore, if eligible, be entitled to be registered.

Broadly speaking, the effect of the new legislation is that a British woman who marries an alien, or whose husband loses British nationality, remains a British subject, unless, under the law of the foreign country concerned, she acquires the nationality of her husband.

The peculiarity of the new legislation is that in order to ascertain the particular nationality of a woman so placed, it is necessary to know what the law is in the country of which her husband is a national. The position varies, and the Home Office Circular sets out the position in relation to several States, and it extends its good offices to registration officers who may be in doubt regarding a particular case.

Among the instances given are those of the United States where generally if the woman was a British subject at the date of marriage she remains a British subject. In the case of France, a woman married to a Frenchman after the 17th November, 1933, is not French and, therefore, remains British; likewise a woman married before that date would be French, and therefore not entitled to be registered.

It is pointed out that the police are not the authorities to whom to apply to in this matter as British born women are not now required to register under the Aliens Order





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# OUR YOUTH PAGE

By W.  
ARTHUR  
PEACOCK

I have said in these pages before that I have little time for people who delight in arousing age versus youth controversies. There is more important work to be done. Some of the prominent workers in our movement think differently and seem to derive a measure of satisfaction from decrying the rising generation.

A few evenings since I listened to a speech by a general secretary of an important union. A union which is anxious to win the interest of young workers. He was not one of the "old school" and is probably among the youngest of our general secretaries.

He declares young people of to-day have less enthusiasm, less ability, less understanding than in his youth. He lamented the fact that he could not see young men and women of equal calibre to the comrades of his youth and with whom he had grown up, coming into the Movement now.

I am sorry anyone should have such defective vision. The success of "Labour's Call to Youth Campaign" is no secret. Over four hundred branches have been formed in a few months and some 30,000 young people have been brought into our movement. A peep into the columns of their monthly journal *The New Nation*, will give a clue to the work they are doing.

This good comrade declared the younger generation were afraid of the soap box. I don't think so. I know of many young men and women in all parts of the country who take their place on the street corner platform with unfailing regularity. I could mention local parties where activities would be dormant were it not for the young people.

I am not going to suggest our League members are doing anything more than they ought. I am not asking for bouquets. All I want is to urge upon adult workers the utter stupidity of this type of speech. It is the real way to arouse the anger and antagonism of the younger folk. We want to encourage everyone to work, no matter how old they may be or what position they may hold in the

movement. And it may be good, too, if some of those who occupy such prominent positions in our movement and who talk about "the old days" and the soap box, set an example themselves.

I have been a local party propaganda secretary and my correspondence files could tell a story.

It would be good to know the last of this sort of talk had been heard. Having got these young people into our party, our job is to maintain their interest, to encourage their work and to enthuse them by example with the desire to serve.

I fear I have written in a rather different manner this month but it seems to me this must be said. A more friendly approach to the young worker, a little more contact between national officials and local activities, a greater spirit of comradeship and goodwill, and a little less of the "superior person" are what our movement needs as it sets out on its great propaganda campaign for Socialism.

And now just a few notes about some of the things our young people are doing. I hear of plans to run special propaganda campaigns in 60 London constituencies. Open-air meetings, door-to-door canvass, literature distribution, are prominent features of the work.

Young Socialists attached to the Clarion Youth Campaign Committee have organised Socialist propaganda weeks in Peckham, Chiswick and Chelsea.

Plans are in hand for organising street sales of Socialist literature on London's busy streets. The Black-shirts are not to have things all their own way.

Skipton is another division which is to be attacked this summer. Young Socialists in Manchester are organising a propaganda campaign.

Yes! the great work goes on. Similiar stories can be told about activities in other places. Labour has good cause to be proud of its young people.

# HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW?

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1. What is a proxy vote, and who may vote by proxy ?
  2. Has a Jew any special privilege regarding voting ?
  3. Can you read an ordnance map ?
  4. Who appoints the Standing Orders Committee at the L.P. Annual Conference ?

?

5. Must a claim to be registered be signed in all cases by the claimant ?
  6. What distinction may one draw between the following terms used by publishers (1) impression; (2) edition; (3) re-issue ?
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**CAN YOU ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS ?**

**STUDY YOUR ANSWERS**

then turn to page 86.



# Entertainment Tax

Labour secretaries sometimes give a thought to the Entertainment Tax—more often, we are afraid, not.

Nevertheless, inland revenue authorities in some areas are watchful; and in any case it pays best to be on the safe side.

For this reason we give below some useful information on the incidence of this tax, which has been supplied to us from official quarters. Our readers will do well to carefully note both the liability to tax, and the exemptions.

The Entertainments Duty is a Duty levied on payments exceeding 2d. for admission of persons to any entertainment *as spectators or members of an audience*. Thus it is chargeable on payments for admission to see or hear an entertainment, e.g., an exhibition of cinematograph films or a football match or a concert, but *not on payments to take part in an entertainment*, e.g., a dance or a whist drive.

The Rates of Duty are as follows:—Where the payment for admission *excluding the Duty*, s. d.

exceeds 2d. and does not exceed 2½d. ... 0 0½

exceeds 2½d. and does not exceed 6d. ... 0 1

exceeds 6d. and does not exceed 7½d. ... 0 1½

exceeds 7½d. and does not exceed 10d. ... 0 2

exceeds 10d. and does not exceed 1s. 0½d. ... 0 2½

exceeds 1s. 0½d. and does not exceed 1s. 3d. ... 0 3

exceeds 1s. 3d.—3d. for the first 1s. 3d. and 1d. for every 5d. or part of 5d. over 1s. 3d., and so on.

The Duty is not leviable in the case of persons admitted to an entertainment without payment (either direct or indirect) on a free or complimentary ticket clearly marked as such. But if, though the admission is nominally free, the person admitted pays indirectly for the right of admission by having, for example, to purchase a programme or to contribute to a collection as a condition of admission, the cost of the programme or the requisite contribution to the

collection must be regarded as a payment for admission, and if it exceeds 2d., the Duty must be paid thereon.

Subscriptions to Clubs, etc., are liable to the Duty if they confer the right of admission to entertainments. But where the subscription represents payment for other rights, privileges or purposes as well as for the right of admission to entertainments, the Duty is chargeable only on such part of the subscription as is determined by the Board of Customs and Excise to represent the right of admission to entertainments.

Similarly, where an entertainment is in part dutiable, e.g., a concert, and in part non-dutiable, e.g., a dance or whist drive, the Duty is payable on such part of the payment for admission to the combined entertainment as is determined by the Board of Customs and Excise to represent the right of admission to the dutiable part of the entertainment. If it is claimed in any case that the Duty should only be levied on part of the payment for admission, an application should be made beforehand, giving full particulars of the case.

The Duty is payable by means of Stamped Tickets of Admission unless the Board of Customs and Excise have issued their written authority for other arrangements. Failure to use Stamped Tickets where such authority has not been issued renders the promoters of an entertainment liable to penalties.

*Exemption* from entertainments duty is allowed in cases where it is shown to the satisfaction of the Commissioners of Customs and Excise—

- (1) That the whole of the takings of the entertainment are devoted to philanthropic or charitable purposes without any charge on the takings for any expenses of the entertainment; or
- (2) That the entertainment is promoted by a society or institution of a permanent character established or conducted solely or partly for philanthropic or charitable purposes, or by two or more such societies or institutions acting on combination, and that the whole of the net proceeds of the entertainment are devoted to philanthropic or charitable purposes; or
- (3) That the entertainment is of a



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- wholly educational character; or
- (4) That the entertainment is provided for partly educational or partly scientific purposes by a society, institution or committee not conducted or established for profit; or
  - (5) That the entertainment is provided in furtherance of the object of reviving national pastimes by a society or institution founded with that object and not conducted or established for profit; or
  - (6) That the entertainment is provided by or on behalf of a school or other educational institution, or an organisation certified by a local education authority to be established and conducted for the purpose of providing social or physical training for children or young persons who are attending or have attended schools or educational institutions provided, aided or maintained by that authority; and that the school, institution or organisation is not conducted or established for profit; and that the entertainment is provided solely for the purpose of promoting some object in connection with the school, institution or organisation; and that all the performers in the entertainment are receiving or have received instruction in the school or institution or are members of the organisation; or
  - (7) That the entertainment is provided by a society (including a company, institution or other association of persons by what-

ever name called) which is not established or conducted for profit, and consists solely, apart from a performance of music by a band or an exhibition of work or displays of skill by children under the age of sixteen years or by young persons attending a school or other educational institution, of

- (a) an exhibition of the products of an industry (including agriculture, horticulture, and the breeding of animals of any description) or of materials, machinery, appliances, or foodstuffs used in the production of those products, or displays of skill by workers in the industry in work pertaining to the industry; or
- (b) of an exhibition of works of graphic art, sculpture and arts craftsmanship, or of one or more of such classes of works, executed and exhibited by persons who practise graphic art, sculpture or arts craftsmanship for profit and as their main occupation, or of displays of skill by such persons in such arts or crafts; or
- (c) of an exhibition of articles or displays of skill which are of material interest in connection with questions relating to the public health.

*Application for a grant of exemption in respect of any entertainment must be made not less than 14 days before the date of the entertainment.*

# HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW?

(See page 83 for questions.)

## Proxy Voters

### Answer to Question 1.

Any person whose name appears on the Absent Voters List who makes a statement in the prescribed form that there is a probability that at the time of a Parliamentary Election he will be at sea or out of the U.K. and satisfies the registration officer as to the bona fides of such statement is entitled to appoint a proxy. Having done so he must vote through that proxy, and no ballot paper will be sent through the post to him as is done in the case of other absent voters.

A person appointed as a proxy must be the wife, husband, brother or sister of the elector, or a registered elector for the constituency "or one of the constituencies" in which the elector is registered. A person cannot appoint more than two proxies however many times he may be registered, and no person can act as proxy for more than two absent voters unless voting as a relative as above.

A proxy paper once issued remains in force until cancelled by the elector, but it cannot be cancelled in respect of any election unless the cancellation is received before the day of nomination. The proxy paper must be produced by the appointed proxy to the presiding officer at the polling station, when, after answering certain prescribed questions, a ballot paper is issued and the proxy may vote in the ordinary way.

## Jews Voting

### Answer to Question 2.

Yes. Ballot Act Rule 26 provides that if the poll be taken on Saturday, the presiding officer shall, on the application of any voter who declares that he is of the Jewish persuasion, and objects on religious grounds to vote in the manner prescribed by the Act, mark the ballot paper as directed by the voter in the same way as may be done on behalf of a blind voter. The same provisions extend to Local

Government Elections and are now re-enacted in the Local Government Act, 1933.

It should be noted that the Jewish Sabbath commences at sunset on Friday. The provision quoted above does not extend to Friday voting, and it may therefore be said that both Fridays and Saturdays are bad days for a poll in an area where Jewish voters reside.

## Reading Maps

### Answer to Question 3.

Very many people purchase Ordnance maps without being able to completely understand them. Map reading and map making is, after all, a science. An experienced map reader can visualise the country shown on a map, can measure directions, slopes and distances, gauge the suitability of different parts for different objects, and with a knowledge of the conventional signs used, he is readily master of the enumerable details shown on the map.

There is an alphabet of map reading; for certain symbols, known as conventional signs, are universally adopted, though for military and a few special purposes some slight modifications are made. The conventional signs represent virtually every physical and artificial feature that may be found in a country. Thus, there are distinguishing marks for roads (with classifications), footpaths, railways, level crossings, cuttings, embankments, bridges (over and under), churches, chapels, towers or spires, windmills, letterboxes, civil boundaries, post and telegraph offices, rivers and streams, orchards, ornamental grounds, rough pastures, marshes, woods of various kinds, milestones, antiquities, cliffs, commons, fords, ferries, railway stations, tunnels, villages, walls, wells and other things, not to mention the all-important contour signs which give one a mental picture of the surface—its hills and valleys, its ridges, slopes and plains.



All the features we have named will be found on Ordnance maps, though not all of them on the smaller scale maps. With an up-to-date Ordnance map to study the newcomer to a far-flung County Division learns far more from an hour or two's study of it, concerning the configuration, accessibility and general "hang" of the Division than he could learn by a day or two's touring. Map reading is in fact an essential science to study for all those having area organisation to do. And this embraces very many people in the Labour Movement.

## "Standing Orders"

### Answer to Question 4.

Although colloquially known as the Standing Orders Committee the proper term for the Committee referred to is the Party Conference Arrangements Committee. This body consists of five delegates, together with a member of the Head Office Staff who acts as Secretary to the Committee. The Committee for the succeeding year is elected at each Annual Conference, and its business is to arrange the order of the Party Conference Agenda, to act as a Standing Orders Committee, and to appoint scrutineers and tellers for the Annual Conference from amongst the delegates, and submit them for approval to the Conference. The Standing Orders Committee possess powers which are not vested in the National Executive. Every affiliated organisation is entitled to nominate one delegate for the Conference Arrangements Committee at each Conference.

## Signature to Claim

### Answer to Question 5.

Although a form must be filled up in respect of every claim to be put upon the register where the name has been omitted from the electors' lists, it is not necessary that the form should be signed by the claimant personally. Rule 10 of the Registration Rules makes it clear that a claim may be made on behalf of a claimant by another person, and the form of claim also provides for this to be done. Such method of claiming is, of course, of convenience to political parties. No such privilege attaches to the making of an objection.

## Publishers' Terms

### Answer to Question 6.

There is a substantial difference in the meaning of these terms when used by publishers. An impression refers to the copies printed at any one time. A reprint is called a "new impression." An "edition" is an impression which has undergone some change, or for which it has been necessary to reset the type. A "re-issue" indicates re-publication, and at a different price, or in a different form.

## RAISE THE SCARLET STANDARD HIGH!

### An "L.O." Offer To Readers.

We especially desire to draw our readers' attention to the advertisement of Mr. Tutill, Banner Manufacturer, on page 85 of this issue.

In the past banners and bannerettes have been surprisingly neglected by the political movement, but with the "Victory for Socialism" Campaign, and Labour's rising hopes generally, we urge that now is the time, if ever, to inspire and inspire the masses, to head the processions with flaunting and meaning devices, to make rallies real revivals, and, in short, to put into practice Morris's words, "Forth the banners go."

We earnestly ask our readers to consider the times, and to realise that the psychological time for banners has arrived. Silk banners are not cheap, but they last, and they lead and rally again and again. The cost comes back. And must we always consider cost before inspiring, rousing and reviving the millions who are to join us in the march to victory?

We make this offer to our readers: if they send for particulars and decide to have a banner, we will make a donation to the fund for each banner purchased. This does not apply to bannerettes which are much cheaper.

Our advertisers are one of the oldest, if not the oldest firm in the trade. They are 100 per cent. Trade Unionists. And who but Trade Unionists know what recruiting and what membership of the Unions is directly traceable to the silken marshals woven by this firm?

We ask our readers to write without delay.

# This Month's Tip . . .

- ¶ This month's best tip comes from Plymouth (Sutton Division).
- ¶ Every practical organiser and electioneer knows the value of a marked register, but in how many cases where a marked register is kept is the information scientifically analysed and prepared in such manner as to convey all the vital lessons and information which a marked register can be made to show?
- ¶ In the Sutton Division the register is marked to show members of the Labour Party, persons who promised to vote Labour on the occasion of the last canvass (1933) and also those who promised to vote Labour at the canvasses of 1932 and 1931. There are probably other markings, though these do not appear in the information before us. In any case, we recommend other markings to show at least Trades Unionists and Co-operators.
- ¶ Information has been carefully collected from the marked registers, which shows in table form, in respect of every ward and street in the town, the number of Party members, and the number of those who promised to vote Labour, *and how many times the promise was made*, i.e., once, twice or three times. The register has also been analysed to show the number of roads and houses in each ward, with other useful information.
- ¶ It will readily occur to our readers that information so compiled is extraordinarily valuable *if used*. The tables indicate where membership is weak, but also where it is weakest in comparison with the voting strength, which after all denotes the places where the best returns might be expected from a membership campaign. Having a succession of canvasses to work upon it also shows the likeliest persons to become members, and the extent to which the propaganda of the Party has been successful in securing fresh adherents.
- ¶ In presenting this tip we urge the importance of such analyses from the managerial point of view of any campaign. But we urge also that the time and trouble spent is valueless unless the information so obtained is made the basis for consistent following up.
- ¶ We are indebted for this hint to Mr. R. A. Scarr, Labour Agent (Sutton Division), Beaumont Hall, Beaumont Road, Plymouth.



# A New Digest of Local Government Election Law

CONTAINING ALL THE AMENDMENTS MADE BY L.G. ACT, 1934.

## Introduction:

The Local Government Act, 1933, which comes into force on June 1st next, has made necessary a simple yet comprehensive restatement of the law relating to Local Elections for the convenience of agents and secretaries, and all concerned in these matters.

While primarily an Act to consolidate (with amendments) the enactments relating to Local Government authorities, the amendments of the existing law are so numerous that nothing short of a restatement in the form of this article would give to our readers a fair perspective of the changed procedure. Many of the changes brought about by this Act make for simplicity, or are desirable in other respects; others are of doubtful value.

There is a difference between consolidation and co-ordination. The repeals made by the new Act cover a wide field and virtually the whole structure of law relating to Local Government Elections has disappeared and is now re-enacted with amendments, as, of course, also are many other matters which relate to the powers and administration of Local Government authorities.

Consolidation has been the prime aim, but incidentally a degree of co-ordination has been carried through, and differences of procedure in different classes of elections have been reduced. The Act has not gone far enough in this respect, and although all the procedure for County Council and Municipal Elections is contained in the Act, District and Parish Council Elections will still be conducted under the Act, plus Orders in Council.

The phraseology of the Act leaves a good deal to be desired in several particulars, and already differences of opinion have arisen regarding the interpretations to be placed on certain clauses. The exact meaning in certain respects is not likely to be made clear until a crop of cases has come before the Courts.

## Qualifications for Office.

The qualification to be elected to a

County Council, Municipal Council, District or Parish Council is now as follows:—

"A person shall . . . be qualified . . . if he is of full age and a British subject, and

- (a) he is a local government elector for the area of the local authority; or
- (b) he owns freehold or leasehold land within the area of the local authority; or
- (c) he has during the whole of the twelve months preceding the day of election resided in the area of the local authority; or,
- (d) in the case of a member of a parish council, he has either during the whole of the twelve months preceding the day of election or since the twenty-fifth day of March in the year preceding the year of election resided either in the parish or within three miles thereof.

Readers will observe that the obsolete qualifications relating to Rating comprised in Section 11 of the Municipal Corporations Act, 1882, have been swept away; so also has the cessation of qualification to remain a member of the Council, which applied to a person whose qualification rested upon being a local government elector, and who ceased to reside in the borough. The Ministers of Religion (Removal of Disqualifications) Act, 1925, has disappeared, as also the Act of 1914 which conferred qualification on women to be elected to county and borough councils, both acts owing to re-drafting being no longer necessary.

The Local Government Act, 1894, was also obscure in relation to the qualification of rural district councillors ever since the abolition of Boards of Guardians, and the old provisions for qualification are repealed.

An improved and simplified wording for the qualification based on ownership is substituted by "(b)" for the wording contained in Section 10 of the Representation of the People Act, 1918. The wording of the Act incidentally removes a doubt which

existed as to whether a non-British subject could be elected to a borough council.

#### Disqualifications for Office.

The disqualifications for office are contained in Section 59 of the new Act, and were printed in full in our issue for February, 1934.

The changes made are considerable and recent discussions of the Act have principally centred around the removal of disqualification relating to contracts with the local government authority and the substitution of provisions, requiring a person interested in a contract to declare such interest and abstain from voting or taking part in the discussion on any matter in which he has a pecuniary interest. These partial disabilities are imposed also upon a person whose spouse has an interest in a contract.

As the law stood a whole battery of decided cases governed the question of disqualification on this matter, and there were differences as between county councils, borough councils and district councils which related to the matter of the contract. These distinctions are all abolished.

Of importance to our readers is the fact that disqualification for the receipt of poor law relief is now extended to membership of non-county borough councils. Section 10 of the Local Government Act, 1929, relating to this matter has been repealed and is here re-enacted and amended.

By the present Act a paid officer employed by a committee of which any member is appointed on the nomination of another local authority is disqualified from being elected to the latter authority.

Under the present Act all the disqualifications are extended not only to election but to remaining a member of the Council. Section 300, however, provides as follows:—

"A person holding office at the commencement of this Act as a member of a local authority, chairman of a parish meeting, or elective auditor of a borough, or as a member of any committee, sub-committee, or joint committee shall be deemed to have been elected or appointed to that office under this Act:

Provided that he shall retire from office on the date on which he would have retired if this Act had not been passed, and until he so

retires from that office he shall not be disqualified for holding the office by reason of any circumstance which occurred before the commencement of this Act and which would not have given rise to a disqualification for that office if this Act had not been passed."

The wording of the above clause is likely to give rise to some contention, and it would appear that although a councillor who had received poor law relief and is newly disqualified for a non-county borough council would be permitted to continue in office until the end of his term, a person whose disqualification was of the continuing kind would not be exempted by this clause. The clause refers to a circumstance occurring before the commencement of the Act. A person's continued employment as the paid officer of a joint committee for instance could hardly be so interpreted. Anyway, it will be surprising if this section does not give rise to litigation.

#### Ordinary Elections.

Only a very slight change has been made in the provisions as to the dates on which ordinary elections will take place.

County council elections will take place between the first and eighth day of March every third year. The county council may fix the date prior to the 25th January, but if not so fixed elections will take place on the latest date.

Borough council elections will be on the 1st November as heretofore. The order of procedure as laid down for elections of county councillors and borough councillors is as follows. It will be noted that a more leisurely procedure is provided for than previously.

The time-tables for District and Parish Council Elections will be contained in the Orders in Council which presumably will issue when the Act comes into force.

#### Casual Vacancies.

In the past while vacancies occurring within six months of the ordinary day of retirement would not be filled, in the case of a district or parish council they would be filled in the case of a municipal or county council. The practice has been made uniform by applying to all local government



bodies the rule that a vacancy occurring within six months of the ordinary day of election *shall not* be held.

In the past doubts have sometimes arisen as to whether or no a seat was vacant, and as to the procedure to be taken thereon. The present Act makes the procedure uniform for all classes of Local Government Elections, and clears up the points referred to.

A vacancy may occur from any of the following causes:—

1. Non-acceptance of office.
2. Resignation.
3. Death.
4. Cessation of qualification.
5. Disqualification.
6. Failure to attend meetings.
7. Election to aldermancy.
8. Lack of nominations at an ordinary or casual election.

#### Where Vacancy is Created.

A casual vacancy is held to exist

(1) In the case of non-acceptance of office as from the last date for making a declaration.

(2) In the case of resignation as from the receipt of notice of resignation.

(3) In the case of death—as from the date of death.

(4) In the case of cessation of qualification, as from the date of which the office is declared to be vacant by the council (or by the High Court).

(5) In the case of disqualification, similarly to the last, except that disqualification which arises by reason of a surcharge or conviction does not count until the expiration of the period for appeal or until such appeal is disposed of.

(6) In the case of failure to attend meetings it is now laid down that a council or failing to attend any meeting of the local authority throughout a period of six consecutive months ceases to be a member of the authority. Attendance at a sub-committee ranks as an attendance of the local authority. When a vacancy occurs through the operation of this section the vacancy ranks from the time the seat is declared vacant by the council (or by the High Court).

(7) In relation to an election to aldermancy the vacancy dates from the date on which he accepts that office.

(8) In the case of vacancies occur-

ring or continuing owing to lack of valid nominations, the county returning officer in a county council election, or the mayor in a borough election, or the returning officer at a district council election, has power to order a further election, and to appoint the date himself, subject of course, to the provisions relating to the different steps to be taken. This also applies in the case where the poll is countermanded by reason of the death of a candidate before the commencement of the poll.

In cases where the council has declared the office to be vacant an election to fill the vacancy must be held within thirty days of such declaration by the council. In other cases (death for instance) the vacancy must be filled within thirty days after notice in writing of the vacancy has been given to the clerk to the local government authority by two electors.

The attention of our readers is particularly drawn to the latter provisions and to the distinction between vacancies which require notification by two electors, and those at which the election will immediately proceed. Our readers will also observe that the procedure now laid down is longer than the procedure hitherto in force, and the possibilities of snap municipal by-elections are thereby much reduced.

#### Correcting Difficulties.

If for any reason an election is not held on the appointed date, or within the appointed time, an application may be made to the High Court to order an election, and where similar circumstances have occurred in the case of a district council, the county council has power to order an election. Our readers should note that these provisions which apply also in the case of the election of chairman, mayor or alderman, virtually re-enact the provisions of the Local Government Elections Act, 1896, which is now repealed. A case to which the latter Act would apply was referred to in our last issue.

Where a casual vacancy occurs among parish councillors, such vacancy is filled not by a poll, but by the parish council, which must be convened forthwith for the purpose of filling the vacancy.

*Next Month: Nominations, Poll, etc.*

Proceeding.	Time in case of election of county councillor.	Time in case of election of councillors of a borough.
Notice of Election.	The twentieth day before the day of election.	The twelfth day before the day of election.
Delivery of nomination papers.	5 o'clock in the afternoon on the twelfth day before the day of election.	5 o'clock in the afternoon on the eighth day before the day of election.
Despatch of notices of decision on nominations and publication of state- ment of persons nomin- ated.	5 o'clock in the afternoon on the eleventh day before the day of election.	5 o'clock in the afternoon on the seventh day before the day of election.
Delivery of notices of withdrawals from candi- dates.	5 o'clock in the afternoon on the ninth day before the day of election.	2 o'clock in the afternoon on the sixth day before the day of election.
Notice of poll.	The fifth day before the day of election.	The fifth day before the day of election.

### THE PLACE OF WOMEN'S SECTIONS IN THE PARTY.

The following condensed extracts of a speech by Miss Mary Sutherland, Chief Woman Officer, made at the last Annual Women's Conference will, in view of the approach of this year's Conference, bear reprinting, covering as they do, points which are often misunderstood in Local Parties. We think these comments should be seriously noticed.

In the first place, in some constituencies it was assumed that a Women's Section was an affiliated organisation. A Women's Section was not an affiliated organisation. A Women's Section was an integral part of the Labour Party organisation.

A Women's Section had not a separate membership from membership of the Party. The women members of the Party were automatically members of the Women's Section.

A Women's Section was a piece of machinery to enable the women members of the Party to meet together and carry on their own special work for women.

When women members enrolled in the Local or Constituency Party or Ward there should be an arrangement between the Party Secretary or the Ward Secretary and the Secretary of the Women's Section for an exchange of names of women members.

In some Parties the enrolling of members was done entirely by the Party. The names of the new women members should be handed to the Secretary of the Women's Section so that she might have an opportunity of calling on these new members and inviting them to attend meetings.

They must not be satisfied merely to have a big membership; they must see that the growing membership was being brought into the activities of the Movement. The activities most likely to appeal to the women would be those of the Section.

If any Party left the enrolment of women members to the Women's Sections the Section Secretary should see that the Party Secretary had a list of all new members.

Another important point was in connection with finance. There was only one membership of the Party and one subscription and the membership subscriptions paid by women members were, strictly speaking, the property of the Local or Constituency Party, but there ought to be an arrangement, such as was described in the handbook, "Women's Sections; their Constitution and Activities," between the Section and the Party for a proportion of the women's membership subscriptions to be handed back to the Section by the Party, or alternatively, for the Party to meet certain expenses of the Section.



She thought the most satisfactory method was for a proportion of the subscription to be retained by the Section, and if an arrangement of that kind were made it prevented difficulties later on.

Apart from the membership fees, the Section had the right to raise funds for its own work, and such funds were the property of the Section.

Again, the Women's Section should appoint representatives on the General Committee of the Local and Constituency Parties, and should see that its representatives attended regularly. The delegates who attended the General Committee should give a regular report from the Women's Section and a regular report should be brought to the Section by them of the activities of the Local Party.

A further point was that the Women's Section had the same right as any other part of the Party in regard to the nomination of candidates.

It was necessary to emphasise the importance of the Central Committee or in the County Division, the Federation. The rules of the Party provided for the formation of a Central Committee to link the activities of the Women's Section in a constituency. The possibilities of the work of the Central Committees or Federations had not yet been fully realised and she hoped that in divisions which had no Central Committee they would raise this matter at the General Committee of the Party with a view to a Central Committee being formed to link up the activities of the women throughout the constituency.

A final point to which Miss Sutherland said she would like to refer was that some Parties had a tendency to think of Women's Sections only from the money raising point of view. Women ought to insist on the right to share in other sorts of activities, and to demand that efforts to raise funds should be shared by all members of the Party, and not placed exclusively on the shoulders of the Women's Section. The Women's Sections should not be looked upon merely as the source from which all the finance could be raised.

If Parties developed their membership and organised the collection of membership subscriptions, there would not be the same need to have those bazaars and money-raising efforts

that in some places involve all the time of the women. In areas where the women had done a variety of things other than raising money there was greater enthusiasm and a better and healthier organisation among the women than in those districts where the women had been made to feel that their special function was to raise money.

The Women's Sections had a three-fold purpose. They had to educate the women electors in politics and convert more and more of the women to Socialist principles and the need for power to give effect to them; they had to build up the organisation in the constituencies; and they had to help to find the money for carrying on the work of the Party.

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# PRINT AND PRINTING

A USEFUL ARTICLE REPRINTED.

## I.—GENERAL.

An Election Agent is for ever handling printing. When there is no actual election in progress, an agent or organiser is continually ordering printed matter as part of the Party's propaganda, and the amount he uses during an actual fight is prodigious.

Therefore it may be helpful if a few essential facts were here stated concerning printing.

I am dismissing entirely the subject of advertising or publicity, so far as the "writing" is concerned.

As an election agent will hardly ever need to use lithographed matter, I am only dealing with printing from type, or letterpress work.

There are four essential points to be observed in regard to all printed matter: it should be attractive, original, easily read, and economical. These few notes are intended to make that possible.

### Power of Attraction.

Unless printed matter can attract and hold attention it has no real value. There is more print being used to-day than ever there was, hence there is more competition among articles of print; each is shouting to be read, and that which is most attractive to the man in the street, stands the best chance of being read by him.

There are two styles of letterpress printing now in vogue: the style of to-day, practised by up-to-date printers who know their job, and the style as practised at Stonehenge—this is still adhered to by printers who do not know their job. The latter predominate. There are myriads of "small" printers who have an equipment that should be blown sky-high or melted down. Some of the best work now being done in the realm of printing is being done by Labour firms. Their work is always clean, artistic and attractive.

The modern style is distinguished by the use of pleasing type-faces, ordered arrangement of copy, called "grouping," restraint in the use of ornament, and of handsome margins.

The style which originated about 54 B.C. and which is still inflicted on a suffering world is distinguished by the use of ugly and grotesque type-faces that repel, no arrangement of copy: no "grouping," lavish use of nightmare "ornaments," and pinched, inadequate margins.

Even the Government has now realised that official publications should be printed as attractively as possible, in order that they may invite people to read them and in order that such reading should be made as pleasant an operation as possible.

### Originality.

Besides being attractive, every job should be as different from preceding ones as possible: it should aim at being original in make-up and arrangement. The poster you issue now should be different in design and arrangement from the one you issued last week. The election address should be dressed in different clothes, different from all previous ones, and different, also, from those of the enemy (should he have already issued his address). The same also applies to every handbill, circular, poll card, leaflet, etc.

### Producing Easily-Read Printing.

In these days everybody is rushed—or thinks he is! A printed political message must be arranged in such a manner that it can be read with reasonable ease and rapidity, otherwise it will not be read by anybody except the election agent and his candidate. Larger sized type must always be used in preference to smaller sized type. The only small-faced type that is read to-day is that on the racing page of the daily Press.

### Economical Production.

This, of course, is largely a question of experience. It should be borne in mind that coloured or multi-coloured printing costs more than ordinary black, and the actual machining of coloured matter takes much more time. Cost is governed by the size of the job generally, amount of setting, quality of paper, and ink. The cost of setting a page



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of small type will be much more than the cost of setting a page of large type, even if the page-size is the same. More type to set, more cost. The quality—and therefore the price—of the paper depends on the character of the job. Paper must be chosen according to the kind of matter that is going to be printed on it, and, if the job is to be sent by post in envelopes or wrappers to each elector, or to a number of electors, the question of weight must be borne in mind.

And now I propose to explain the elementary principles of typography, in order that readers may understand the possibilities and limitations of type, and how type is measured.

#### What Type Is.

A type is a piece of four-sided metal, the top of which contains a letter, figure, ornament, or other character. The actual character itself is the "face" of the type, the remaining portion is called the "body." The face does not cover the whole of the "body"; there is a little space—blank—below the character which is called the "beard."

#### Sizes of Type.

Type-size means the size of the type from the top of the letter to the bottom of the letter, plus the "beard." The basis of measurement is the "point." The Standard Point measures .013837 of an inch. There are approximately 72 points in an inch. This measurement, of course, refers only to height of letters, not width.

Sizes of type in common use:—

48 Point Plantin face

THE  
The L  
THE L  
TheLab

36 Point

Plantin face

24 Point

Plantin face

THE LABO  
The Labour

18 Point

Plantin face

THE LABOUR  
The Labour Org

12 Point

Plantin face

THE LABOUR ORGA  
The Labour Organiser de

10 Point

Plantin face

THE LABOUR ORGANI  
The Labour Organiser deliver

8 Point

Plantin face

THE LABOUR ORGNISER DEL  
The Labour Organiser delivers the

6 Point

Plantin face

THE LABOUR ORGANISER DELIVERS  
The Labour Organiser delivers the bacon  
and makes victory sure!

It is quite easy to estimate the number of lines of type that can be got into any depth of space. A point being  $1/72$  of an inch, 72 point type will take one inch of space; 36 point type will occupy half that space, 18 point a quarter, 12 point a sixth, and so on. The following table will be found useful:—

Points.	Lines to the inch.
6	12
7	10
8	9
10	7
12	6
14	5
18	4

Having ascertained the average number of words to a line of a given length, you will be able to determine how many words will go into the space available, whether it be a two-column advert. in a newspaper or an ordinary leaflet.

It should be borne in mind that the standard unit by which a printer measures space is the "pica," or "em," which is 12 points. There are 6 picas to an inch. A printer does not say the columns of the "Daily Herald," for instance, are two inches in width, he says they are 12 picas or 12 ems in width. The columns of "The Labour Organiser" are 12 ems or 12 picas in width.

(To be continued.)